



## Should I Major In Fine Arts?

### What is Fine Arts?

Fine Arts refers to visual art that is created primarily for beauty and meaning. Majoring in Fine Arts will engage you in a wide range of coursework and studio courses, exploring mediums like photography, painting, sculpture, drawing and graphic design. It focuses on developing your skills as artists, creative thinkers, designers and problem solvers. A Fine Arts degree is versatile enough to open doors for many unique career opportunities. Whether you are an artist, musician, or writer, there are dozens of job opportunities for each specialization. If you want to specialize in an area, you may proceed for a Masters in Fine Arts. It can also lead to management and directorship positions in arts-related enterprises.

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How do you decide if pursuing an undergraduate degree in Fine Arts is right for you? Not only will the majority of your courses in the undergraduate degree be relating to this subject, it also lays the foundation for your future career. Thus, it's very important to research whether a major in Fine Arts is appropriate for you.

Top 3 Factors to consider when deciding your Major:

1. **Passion & Interests.** Are you passionate about fine arts? Do you love to animate? Do you have strong drawing or painting skills? Do you think of inserting creativity to any picture or document? Think about what excites you. If the activities you volunteer for and the extracurricular activities you engage in reinforce your commitment to the arts, then you know it's the right major for you. If you are unsure, then get involved – join the School Art Club or test your creative skills in painting or sketching.
2. **Academic Strengths.** When considering your major, make sure your academic strengths and aptitude match that of your subject. For example, do you excel in drawings? A Fine Arts degree involves working with creative ideas, so can you build an appropriate portfolio? Review the degree curriculum at your target schools, take college-level online courses in Fine Arts related subjects, and/or enroll in a summer school program to get a better understanding of what the academic expectations will be.
3. **Job Prospects.** Even if you have a passion and aptitude for the Fine Arts, you also need to evaluate the jobs a Fine Arts degree opens up for you. Relevant summer internships will not





only help you explore, but will also help you cement your interest in this sector. Also, talk to seasoned professionals in careers that you are considering.

## Subjects Covered

Students may choose to concentrate in a visual art, such as painting, photography or sculpture, or they may concentrate in a performing art, like dance, voice or theater. Example of subjects you will study are art history, art theory and criticism, performing arts, 2D arts (painting, photography), 3D art (sculpture, pottery) and nature of fine arts.

If you're looking for a degree that specializes more in a particular aspect of the fine arts (e.g. photography), consider taking a dedicated program in that area, or a joint honors degree. The advantage is that you will acquire general fine arts skills along with more specialized ones, leaving you well placed when it comes to applying for jobs once you have graduated.

## Potential Careers

Depending on the skills and abilities, fine arts majors may choose from a wide variety of career options. There is a majority of people who are self employed in this field and this enables them to work on pieces and work of their choice. It is often essential or highly beneficial to compile a portfolio of work to show prospective employers in your chosen field, including some of your own original ideas as well as coursework. The theoretical side of your degree should allow you to put this work into context, explaining your influences, the thought behind your choice of themes and why you used certain materials and techniques. The skills you've acquired from your Fine Arts major would also be useful in many industries other than direct art, such as media, marketing or public relations.

Typical careers with a fine arts degree include:

**Fine Artist.** Fine Art graduates may consider a career as a professional or fine artist in any specific field such as painting. You may earn income by selling or commissioning your work to private clients. You may display your paintings at art galleries, museums or private gatherings to promote work and arrange sales. Although it is tough to get permanent employment early in your career, but opportunities are increasing.

**Animation or Multimedia Art.** Fine Art graduates who are skilled in drawing and animation may consider a career in animation or any other multimedia arts. You create, plan, and script animated narrative sequences, and assist with background design and production coordination.





You will usually provide the animation for films, television shows, video games and other forms of media using illustrations and other software.

**Graphic Design.** Graphic design is a form of visual communication using hand-drawn or computer-generated images. It incorporates the use of illustration, iconography and branding but it is not limited to these forms of representations. As a graphic designer you develop the overall layout and production design of magazines, newspapers, journals, corporate reports and other publications. You are generally employed in advertising, publishing or design firms.

**Other careers** include roles within architecture, fashion, craft, painting, sketching & drawing, education, photography and entertainment.

An undergraduate education in Fine Arts provides the right formative tools to explore your interests and launch your career. It allows you to express your personal visions through creations such as paintings, drawings or crafts. Your academic template includes subjects like graphic design, sketching, theory of arts, etc. It also nourishes your soft skills like presentation, creative thinking, and visualization. A Fine Arts degree provides graduates the opportunity to enter a wide range of fields, from pottery to photography, and work independently or in a corporate set-up. With so many conventional and especially non-conventional doors open to you, it is important to reflect and identify where your interests and passion lie ideally through deeper engagement in activities both inside and outside of the classroom.

